Instructional Method

“Instructor-centered Teaching Method for Adult Learners”

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There is somewhat of an ongoing debate between educational intellects in regards to Adult Learners and Children Learners some believe that there is a difference in teaching techniques between the two, but for reasons that don’t support the theory of Andragogy. Andragogy is supported by adult learner characteristics such as experience, a wealth of knowledge, values, beliefs and opinions to name a few. This debate spiked my curiosity in regards to the model of Instructor-centered teaching, in Instructor-centered teaching the learning objective is the transfer of knowledge and information, in basically a lecture format from the instructor to the student, the instructor controls the material to be learned, in this form learning is memorization in order to learn new skills and knowledge.

I decided to test the Theories of Andragogy and Pedagogy by mixing the two. I chose 5 participants, in an age range from 45 to 70, I lectured to them on a story from a country that is far from their listening ears, in other word they have no knowledge of this story and it tragic subject, the lecture is on the Indigenous people of Brazil and Candido Rondon, who was Portuguese and bororo, and a marshal in the Portuguese army who was sent to establish a relationship between the Portuguese government and the indigenous tribes of Brazil, because of his compassion for the indigenous people and their culture, he chose not exploit but to preserve their lifestyle and culture, however upon his death the organization that he founded to protect the indigenous people became corrupt, as a result of greed, taking the land from the tribes by murder, abuse and removal, and as a result a large percentage of the tribes were wiped out, before awareness and justice was served. After the lecture I asked the following questions;

**How does this information make you feel?**

**At what point in your life do think this information would have been appropriate?**

**How can you relate to this information? Why?**

The participants were those who had some years of college, to those who were degree holders, to current and former educators, a social advocate, and private business owner and parent of two.

The answer to the first question How does this make you feel?; ranged fromafeeling of nothing to feelings of being appalled, the second question regarding the time of appropriateness for this information was unanimous, High School, and the last question of how a person can relate and why, was the same from four out five of the participants, they related to question based their life experiences and historical knowledge of slavery and the removal of the native American Tribes known as the Trail of Tears.

As a result of my trial I can conclude that there is a place for Andragogy and Pedagogy, and one of the factors that support this is the subject, an adult learner can be in presented a subject that they have no knowledge of, which is a characteristic of a new learner, however at the same time their wealth of knowledge can come into play, when the subject parallels, a similar occurrence in their own culture. Andragogy has been criticized for characterizing adults as we expect them to be rather than as they really are (Sipe 2001). This statement has some validity in traditional settings but is challenged when different methods of teaching can be combined to suit the learner.

Sipe, E. “Adult Education in the Congregation: An Andragogical Approach.” Lutheran Education 137, no. 1 (Winter2001):87-94.